

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action notes that claims 1-25 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, and 21-25 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the Specification and do not add any new matter to the application. Therefore, claims 1-25 are still pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner: (1) objected to the drawings; (2) objected to the specification; (3) rejected claims 2-3, 5, 9-12, 14, 17-19, and 22-25 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph; and (4) allowed claims 1, 4, 6-8, 15-16, and 20-21. Applicant responds to the Examiner's objections and rejections below.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(4). Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been overcome by the attached Replacement Drawings Sheets amendments to the Specification above. Specifically, reference character 14 now consistently refers to the "vacuum cleaner housing," reference character 26 now consistently refers to the "lower portion," reference character 30 now consistently refers to the "bottom part," reference character 34 now consistently refers to the "bottom portion" and reference character 60 has been added to the Specification and to Figure 3 to refer to the "top edge," reference character 44 now consistently refers to the "bottom surface," and reference character 31 now consistently refers to the "top portion."

The Examiner also objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been overcome by the amendments to the Specification above. Specifically, reference signs d1 and d2 have been deleted from the Specification.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings because Figures 1 and 2 had two 12s and two 14s. Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been overcome by the attached Replacement Drawing Sheets. Specifically, Figure 1 has been amended so that there is only one 12 and one 14. Figure 2 has also been amended so that there are not two 14s. Applicant respectfully submits that the two 12s in Figure 2 are acceptable as they indicate that the cooling-air inlet 12 is shown on both sides of the figure.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the Specification because of various informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the Specification above overcome these objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 2-3, 5, 9-12, 14, 17-19, and 22-25 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims above overcome the rejections to claims 2-3, 5, 10-12, 14, 17-19, 22-23, and 25.

As to claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that the language used in claim 9 is clear. The terms “upper portion,” “lower portion,” “top,” and “bottom” are clearly distinct and are clearly used in the Specification (see reference numbers 22, 26, 16, and 18 respectively).

As to claim 24, Applicant respectfully submits that the language used in claim 24 is clear. The terms “sidewall” and “side” are clearly distinct.

Conclusion

In view of the aforesaid, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 20, 2004

By: _____

Thomas J. Ring
Reg. No. 29,971
Attorney for Applicant
Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP
225 West Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606
P: 312-201-2000
F: 312-~~416-5155~~
201-2555

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EK944300414US

Date of Deposit: 5-21-04

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Valeria Rodriguez